A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY
January 23, 2009
Volume XLIX Number 13

THE SPECTATOR

Peace Vigil Held in Response to E-mails

by Russ Doubleday '11
News Editor

In light of the recent escalation of violence in the Gaza Strip between Israel and Hamas, students and faculty of all backgrounds decided to come together for a peace vigil on Monday, Jan. 19. The brief event was not designed for open discussion about the war, but rather as a silent reflection and a plea for reconciliation.

College Chaplain Jeffrey McArn, who participated and helped to organize the vigil, described the event: "We brought 50 white carnations to hand out to vigil participants, and put them together in the form of a huge peace symbol on the floor of KJ Commons. As people came together we stood

see ***Vigil,*** *page 2*

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Students and professors gathered in Kirner-Johnson to promote peace and reconciliation in the Middle East.

FBI: *Hamilton College Threatened*

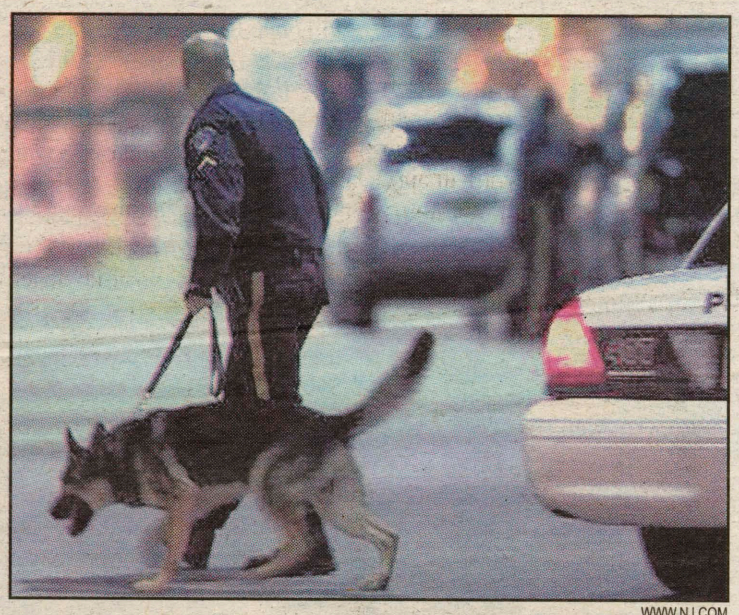
by Martin J. Connor '09, Jr.
Editor Emeritus

At approximately 7:15 a.m. Tuesday Dec. 9, 2008, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) received an anonymous e-mail conveying a threat of violence directed at the College. According to the FBI, the threat lacked credibility. Thursday Jan. 8, a month after receipt of the threat, the FBI notified Campus Safety via a telephone call. The next day, Director of Campus Safety Francis sent an all-campus e-mail informing the community of the threat and outlining the measures that would be taken to address it, including a search of every building on campus.

The College has released few specific details about the threat due to the pending investigation, but Manfredo did offer some limited information. "I cannot discuss the details of the threat but will say that the threat was not specific to any individual, property or group" at Hamilton, said Manfredo. Furthermore, "The FBI classified this to be a low priority threat and *without* credibility."

Manfredo agreed with the FBI's conclusions about the threat, stating, "The FBI deals with this

see ***FBI,*** *page 2*



WWW.NJ.COM

K9 units, similar to this one, searched the campus after the FBI notified the College of the threat.

$1 Million Donated for Cancer Research

by Kate Tummarello '11
Managing Editor

Edward C. Taylor '46, inventor of Alimta, one of the world's most successful cancer drugs, has recently donated $1 million to Hamilton for chemistry research.

Along with his wife Virginia, Taylor used this money to establish The Edward and Virginia Taylor Fund for Student/Faculty Research in Chemistry. Beginning this summer, the donation will go towards research in the fields of organic chemistry, biochemistry, and physical chemistry.

Taylor began his time at Hamilton intending to be a writer when a coin toss pointed him towards chemistry rather than biology as the class to fulfill a science requirement. He became enthralled with chemistry thanks to the attention he received in Hamilton's traditionally small classes and has said that, "At Hamilton, I had the experience of practically being tutored by faculty willing to spend time with me one on one." Taylor then moved on to Cornell where he ultimately received his Ph.D. in chemistry and then to Princeton University, where he is currently professor emeritus of chemistry.

After collaborating with pharmaceutical company Eli Lilly & Co. in 1985, Taylor was able to take a new version of a previously studied antibacterial compound and turn it into the cancer drug Alimta. After 12 years of testing, Alimta is now used to treat lung cancer and mesothelioma, a cancer found in the protective lining of internal organs and usually caused by exposure to asbestos.

Taylor hopes that this donation will help Hamilton students become equally inspired by chemistry. He urges students to be open to different kinds of inspiration and says, "The reason you are going to a liberal arts institution is to take advantage of the variety it offers. Don't base your course selection on your prior limited experience. Spread your wings. Experiment! Other vistas will open if you have an open mind."

Hamilton's Newest Applicant: Claire Bennett from *Heroes*?

by Scott Bixby '11
News Editor

The tagline of NBC's hit series Heroes is "ordinary people with extraordinary abilities." It is only fitting, then, that when one of these ordinary people is applying to colleges, they are looking for extraordinary schools. In a sneak preview of the show's upcoming midseason premier, Claire Bennett, whose regenerative abilities have helped her survive fire, bullets, and a small nuclear explosion, cites Hamilton as one of her top choices. Said Bennett, "Hamilton, Smith, Georgetown… they're all the best schools in the country."

WWW.JIXPICS.COM

Future alumna Claire Bennett, played by Hayden Panettiere.

Numerous Hamilton students and alumni, all fans of the live-action superhero series, were surprised to hear the College mentioned, and the preview video was quickly forwarded to dozens of students. "I was surprised that a show as big as Heroes was mentioning a school as small as Hamilton," said Jacob Murray '09. "I know it's a long shot, but it would be awesome if they decided to shoot here."

Bennett might be a perfect candidate for admission: she's a good student, has strong extracurricular activities, ranging from high school cheerleading to saving the world, and the fact that her father is a United States Senator with the ability to fly might help a little too.

Many shows aim to grab the attention of college students loyal to their schools by mentioning real-life institutions. More recently, the CW series Gossip Girl has made numerous references to the Ivy League: queen bee Blair Waldorf dreams of attending Yale University, and derides rival institution Princeton as a mere "trade school."

Alumna Rebecca Rosenthal '00 may have influenced the decision to mention Hamilton on the show, and the use of Hamilton's promotional literature as set pieces; Rosenthal works on prop placement for the series. Mentioning the College on a hit show like Heroes might have other beneficial results for Hamilton. After Rory on the show Gilmore Girls decided to attend Yale in 2003, applications to the university jumped nine percent the next year. Hamilton's mention may also have to do with our rising national profile and prominence, encouraging after the College dropped five spots in the U.S. News and World Report college rankings in the past two years.

The episode airs on Feb. 2 at 8 o'clock on NBC.

Obama's Inauguration: A Hamiltonian Experience page 8

Lessons behind the Miracle on the Hudson page 12

Hamilton scores lead in Liberty League page 16

Vilsack '72 Named Sec. of Agriculture

by Haley Riemer-Peltz '12
News Writer

On Dec. 19, 2008, then President-Elect Barack Obama appointed Hamilton College alumnus Tom Vilsack '72 to the position of Secretary of Agriculture. Vilsack is another of Obama's former opponents, who began his run for president in the fall of 2006 and dropped out of the race several months later due to his campaign's insufficient funds.

WWW.CNN.COM

President Barack Obama and newly appointed Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack '72.

Advocates for sustainable agriculture did not originally find Vilsack to be an ideal choice. Since huge corn, soybean, and pig farms dominate Iowa's economy, however, Vilsack has connections to powerful agribusiness interests and experience working with these interest groups.

Vilsack has also demonstrated an ability to think independently. Critics are hopeful that his credibility with "Big Agriculture" could help him bring about radical changes in the Department of Agriculture.

Vilsack was a logical choice for Secretary of Agriculture specifically because of his experience in Iowa, which is the ethanol capital of the nation. Ethanol, also known as ethyl alcohol, is a fuel distilled from plant matter. Vilsack's experience holding office in Iowa will hopefully lead to advances in fuel efficiency possibly through the use of ethanol. He has also been a supporter of farm-conservation programs, clean-water regulations and a cap-and-trade scheme to prevent global warming.

"As governor of one of our most abundant farm states, he led with vision, fostering an agricultural economy of the future that not only grows the food we eat but the energy we use," Obama said of Vilsack on Wednesday.

Vilsack was born into an orphanage in Pittsburgh before local parents adopted him shortly thereafter. He graduated from Hamilton in 1972 where he majored in history. Vilsack met his future wife, Christine K'72 while at Hamilton.

After graduating from Hamilton, Vilsack earned a law degree at Albany Law School. He and his wife moved back to her home state of Iowa, where he held private practice as an attorney. He then went on to serve six years in the Iowa Senate.

Threat's Source Still Undetermined; K9 Units Dispatched in Response

*from **FBI**, page 1*

type of situation on a regular basis and I trust their judgment in assessing the credibility of the threat."

Though the FBI does not consider the threat to be credible, Hamilton has taken extensive measures to ensure the safety of the college. "Campus Safety officers, assisted by the Kirkland Police Department and the New York State Police, conducted searches of every building on campus," said Manfredo. A canine unit was also provided by the New York State Police to assist in the search, but no details were provided about the canine unit or its specialization (bombs, drugs, etc.), nor was any information given about the target of the search.

Manfredo was quick to express concern that the measures taken may seem extreme given the FBI's conclusions about the credibility of the threat. "Given the FBI's assessment of the situation, we recognize that some will see our response as an overreaction, but we consider the safety of our students and employees to be our highest priority," he wrote in his e-mail.

Manfredo also indicated that the response effort was an opportunity for both the College and local law enforcement authorities to practice their procedures for such situations. "These buildings were searched to ensure the safety of all students, faculty and staff and also as a joint training opportunity for Campus Safety and Law Enforcement," said Manfredo.

Although the FBI waited a month before passing the threat along to Hamilton, Manfredo expressed little concern over the delay. "As director of Campus Safety I would like immediate notification of any *credible* threat," said Manfredo, citing the FBI's classification of the threat as "low priority and without credibility" as the reason for the delayed notification.

Dean of Students Nancy Thompson, who was consulted before Hamilton decided upon a course of action in response to the threat, said, "If it were up to me, I would have preferred to know sooner, I would want to take any action I could to ensure students' safety." Thompson added, however, that she too agrees with the FBI's conclusions about the threat's credibility, stating, "We have to trust the FBI." In regards to the College's response Thompson said, "We took the information that we had and took the action that we could."

Manfredo offered little information about the campus-wide search, but Thompson stated that "mainly public spaces were searched" and that to the best of her knowledge no students' rooms were searched.

Although Thompson and Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Landry both participated in the response effort, Residential Life was not included in either planning or executing this effort.

Director of Residential Life Travis Hill said he is not concerned at being left out of the response effort. Hill explained that Residential Life would normally take part in any emergency response situation, but because Residential Life's largest resource is its student employees, who were on break, and because the threat was not deemed to be credible, it would have made little sense for Residential Life to play an active role in the campus-wide search. "If it was more credible or more serious, or geared towards a residence hall, we would have been brought in," said Hill.

Hill also conveyed his confidence in the school's leadership, which he said has been "planning for months and years" for crises. Such planning efforts include the emergency notification system introduced last year, which allows the school to communicate immediately by phone, e-mail and text message with the entire community.

Student concerns have arisen that the privacy of their residences may have been compromised by the presence of New York State Police and a canine unit. During fire inspections, members of Residential Life and Campus Safety accompanied State Fire Marshals to certain residence halls, resulting in disciplinary actions by the school against those students found to be in violation of schools policies unrelated to fire safety laws.

Although fire marshals have no jurisdiction over illegal activities unrelated to fire codes, the State Police would have jurisdiction to take action if illegal activities were discovered during the course of the searches. "The reality is that the police would dictate the response in that situation," said Hill. So far no disciplinary action has been taken, either by law enforcement agencies or the school, because of the building searches.

The campus-wide search turned up no evidence to support the credibility of the threat, but no further information has been provided about the threat or the searches at this time due to the pending investigation. The administration has said that more information may become available once the investigation is complete. As Manfredo stated in his e-mail to the campus, "This is also an opportunity to remind our community that safety is a shared responsibility." If you see any suspicious activity on campus please report it to Campus Safety immediately at extension 4141.

Vigil for Mid-East Peace Well-Attended

*from **Peace**, page 1*

around the peace symbol." Next, the Jewish Chaplain Anat Guez, Muslim Student Association advisor and Visiting Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Aaron Spevack and McArn spoke words of peace, meditation, and understanding to the approximately twenty students in attendance. Following these brief remarks was a five-minute time of silent reflection, offering personal thoughts about the situation in the Middle East.

The peace vigil idea was the initiative of both Guez and Spevack who wanted to bring the campus together over the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The event was largely in response to an all-campus e-mail controversy that occurred over winter break. On Friday, Jan. 9, the leadership of the Muslim Students Association sent an all-campus e-mail entitled, "The Israeli Attack on Gaza." The following day the Hamilton German Club canvassed the campus e-mail server with a response that was quoted from an Internet blog. Both e-mails were politically charged opinion pieces on the conflict. German Club President Jeff Rabinowitz '12 and the Muslim Student Association had their posting privileges suspended following the in accordance with ITS guidelines on inappropriate use of the listserv.

Guez and Spevack avoided writing another all-campus e-mail to address and bring together students and faculty. Instead, they decided to hold a vigil inviting the entire Hamilton community to attend in the interests of peace in the Middle East. Hillel, the Muslim Students Association, and the Chaplaincy sponsored the event.

The purpose of the peace vigil was to unite the campus and the different ethnic student organizations together and repair possible damage from the all-campus emails. "The gathering ended in the invitation to take a flower and let it symbolize your hope for peace, and let that hope go along with you [throughout your day]," said McArn.

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OPINION

THE SPECTATOR EDITORIAL

New President, New Semester, Renewed Agenda

The new ice rink (scheduled to be constructed shortly) will not be the only major change this semester: Joseph Urgo has taken over as acting president while Joan Hinde Stewart is on sabbatical. Urgo, who has served as the dean of faculty since 2006, will hold the role until Stewart returns after this semester.

Looking over Urgo's plans, it seems like he will be making a substantial effort to make himself a visible figure on campus. He told *The Spectator* that he wants to be "as accessible as possible," and that he wants campus community members to make use of that accessibility. Besides continuing Stewart's regular Café Opus open hour, he has said he will be making regular appearances in Commons. It will be a conspicuous change to have a president who reaches out to students on a day-to-day basis. Stewart has had many successes in her tenure so far, including the very lucrative Excelsior fundraising campaign, but she has not yet taken an active role interacting with students. If Urgo and his scooter become a visible campus institution, that will be a welcome adjustment. Going to a small liberal arts school offers a realistic chance to get to know professors and administrators. It should be a part of the Hamilton experience.

Accessibility is pointless without attentiveness to student concerns. Students made it clear last semester that safety is on the top of that list. After incidents ranging from car break-ins to possible attempted sexual assaults, there was an outcry. Students voted overwhelmingly for more protection on the recent Student Assembly survey, organized a "Take Back the Night" rally, and had vocal discussions among themselves. Working with Campus Safety to make students feel safe is an urgent goal for Urgo to work towards.

Urgo's most important job will be serving as a steward, helping the College navigate the economic crisis while continuing to improve the standards to which we hold our academics and our community. One way he has done this has been as the face of the Strategic Plan for the past semester. The Strategic Plan, dubbed "Foundations for Hamilton's Next 200 Years," is supposed to map the College's path for the next five years, tackling big picture priorities and outlining long-term goals. So far, Urgo and the planners have been responsive to concerns, changing meeting times to invite more participation and correcting a glaring lack of attention to sustainability.

As Hamilton's steward, Urgo must continue this work, balancing an ear for campus concerns with a weathered eye towards the future.

THE SPECTATOR

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Face Off: Should Mass E-mails Include Opinions?

Yes

by Thomas Yarnell '10
Opinion Editor

The Hamilton College Committee on Information Technology should reconsider their current policy on mass e-mail. At this point, the policy prohibits e-mail "that may be perceived as harassment, political campaigning or commercial solicitation." The ability to send e-mail to large groups of Hamilton community members, such as all students or all-campus, should remain a privilege, and therefore not include any form of harassment or commercial solicitation. However, why not allow the various student organizations on campus to express their views via e-mail?

If handled in a responsible manner, the inclusion of more opinion in mass e-mails would benefit Hamilton in a number of ways. A message from a student organization about its collective position on an issue could help students determine whether or not they might like to join the organization, participate in an event or even attend a meeting just to offer a different perspective or a dissenting opinion.

Mass e-mails offering more than event information would also spark debate amongst students and faculty alike, and thus lead individuals to consider perspectives other than their own or those of the student organizations to which they belong.

Although the e-mails sent over winter break by the Muslim Student Association and the German Club regarding the Israel/Gaza conflict demonstrated how organizations could abuse such new privileges, they also prompted students to engage each other in discussions about the issue. You could hear it in the classrooms, residence halls, and dining halls throughout campus.

Yes, those who sent e-mails about the conflict did so in an irresponsible manner, but this should not deny the entire Hamilton community the opportunity to disseminate knowledge and opinion.

If anything, the College should be able to assume that students can handle new privileges with strictly enforced guidelines. Just as all instructors at Hamilton can expect a certain level of intelligence and hard work from their students, so too should the college be able to expect a level of responsibility from students bestowed with mass e-mailing privileges. Is it not a sorry state of affairs if the college refuses to grant student organizations these new privileges primarily out of a fear that they will use them to bicker or breed hatred?

If, on the other hand, students embraced the opportunity and did not abuse the system, it would build trust with the College, leading to more cooperation in terms of events, funding, etc.

This new, opinion-friendly approach to mass e-mail would not be as difficult to enforce as some might think. Guidelines could still limit the length of such e-mails, prohibit organizations from direct responses to each other and give students specific ideas about what would or would not be appropriate.

As they are now, anyone with mass e-mailing privileges will continue to be held accountable for their actions, and violations would be punished accordingly. It might take a little more effort and a lot more patience on the part of the entire Hamilton community, but given all the potential benefits, we should give it a try.

PHOTO BY ALLISON ECK '12

Hamilton's Information Technology Services provides guidelines for the appropriate use of mass e-mailing privileges.

No

by Allison Eck '12
Opinion Editor

College campuses thrive on the exchange of ideas. Hamilton especially. There is something exhilarating about the tension that arises from assertive student articles in publications such as *The Spectator*, *The Duel Observer*, *The Daily Bull*, and others.

Everyone's opinion matters, so it is perfectly plausible to say that the campus needs to encourage thinking and debating on a higher level than just casual conversation. However, student opinion pieces should never be spread through all-campus e-mails. Hamilton is right to punish those students who recently abused such e-mail privileges.

The Muslim Student Association's (MSA) e-mail was not only offensive to most students happily enjoying their winter break, but it was also probably very discouraging to other members of the MSA.

Being the leader of an organization means representing a group of people who have something in common. This "something" is not necessarily composed of certain beliefs or values. By distributing an e-mail containing brash and demanding comments, the leader of the MSA dismissed the possibility that other members might have contradictory views.

The organization's e-mail representative assumed that tossing out his or her agenda in the name of a "call to action" was fair and reasonable, when it was not. What was even more alarming was the sensitive nature of the issue.

Even if the author had not signed the e-mail under the MSA's name, even if it was purely personal, this is an issue that should not be addressed through the penetrating medium of all-campus e-mails. It would be like sending an e-mail brimming with passionate cries on abortion or gay marriage. Once the College grants one person the right to express his or her opinion through e-mail, the rest will follow, and hateful, disorganized arguing will ensue.

When a member of the German Club retaliated, he presented his position, but through someone else's words. Although he mentioned that the article was not his own, I might be more sympathetic to the cause of political debate through e-mail if it hadn't been the simple result of clicking "copy" and then "paste."

In addition, at least the MSA is a group whose basis is related to issues of the Middle East. As far as I know, Germany has little to do with the Israeli attack on Gaza. Therefore, I feel that if the school were to dismiss the incident with merely a "warning," then first, the e-mail sender would have had to clearly indicate that his or her views did not reflect the other club members' views.

Student opinion should remain a facet of campus publications; not mass e-mails. Hamilton has a right to restrict such e-mails for the sake of maintaining our dignity within such heated disputes.

Thumbs up

No parents.

Gettin' some digits off the senior portrait sign-up in Beinecke.

Tearing down the Womyn's Center and building an outdoor ice rink: Finally, you ladies can stop b!6hing and start figure skating like you're supposed to.

Obama Inauguration: In other news, there is still an economic crisis, war in Iraq, cloudy days, and sick puppies.

The disappearance of the salad bar Nazi: Operation Valkyrie was a success.

Thumbs down

Buying books. Again. Think of it as a temporary investment to later be liquidated for beer money.

Speaking of liquidation: Your digestive tract remembering the only way to deal with Commons cuisine.

Being a white male: I get to feel like an a*^hole for Black History Month, and then, for a change of pace, I get to feel like an a*^hole for Women's Month.

ATMs: Looks like it's gonna be Keystone and Popov for the rest of the year. Damn you Village Tavern!

Who Cares?

Salmonella peanut butter removed from Commons for risk of typhoid fever which results in sweating and diarrhea. How peanut butter was the only food convicted is beyond me.

The *Polo* sweater you got for Christmas.

"Is Google making us stoopid?" Maybe, but only if Moderate Safe Search is on.

New classes: It's going to take me about a week to figure out what reading I don't have to do.

by Steve Allinger '09, Jason Brown '09 & Matt Fellows '09

For Jan Admits, a Bittersweet Welcome

by Will Weisblatt '11
Opinion Writer

For a January Admit, getting that acceptance letter in the spring is a bittersweet experience. To learn that there is a major caveat in your pending enrollment in college is pretty off-putting. It introduces many more questions than it answers.

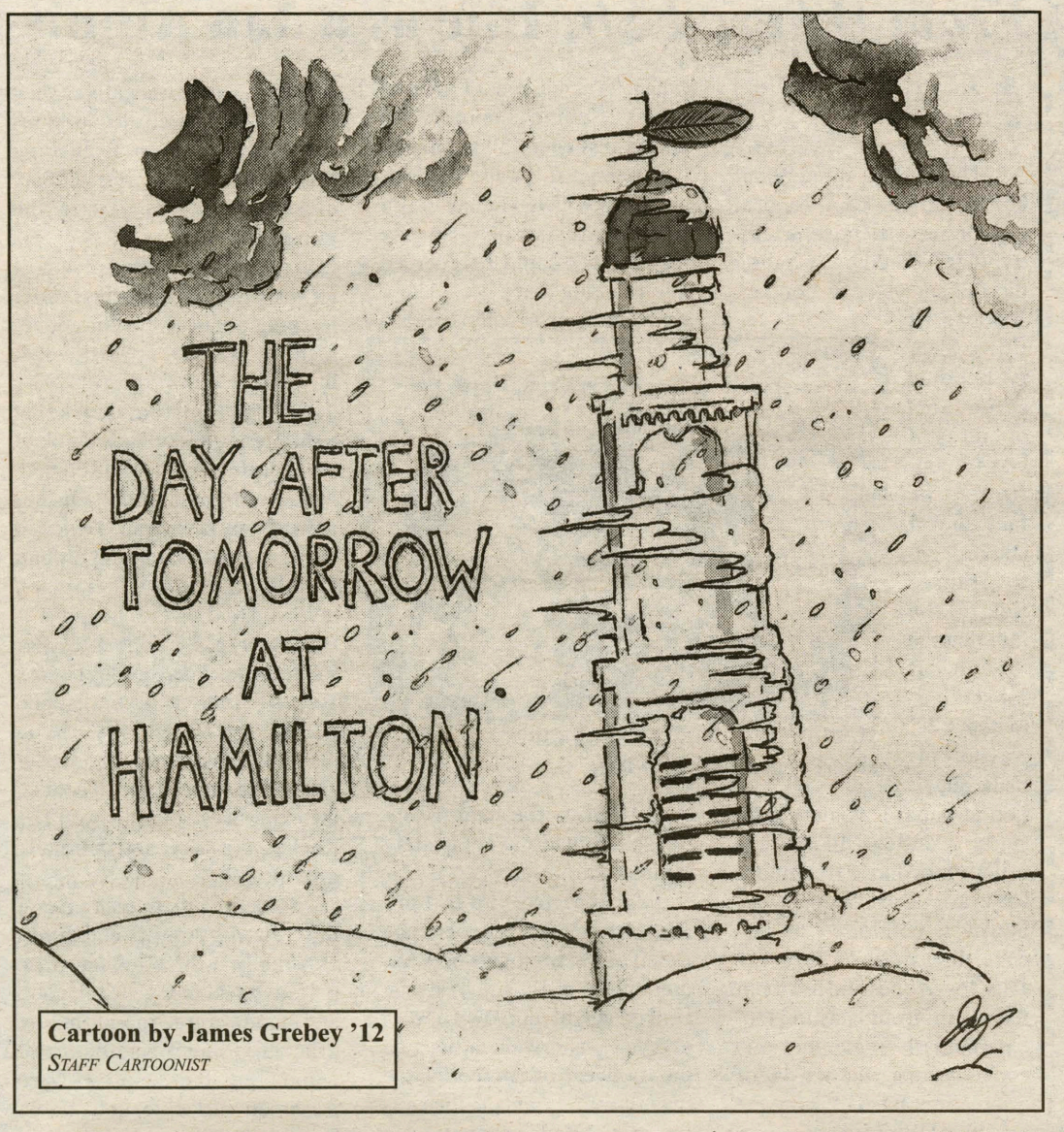
After all, what else does an acceptance letter offer but a form of closure? For better or worse, that letter is supposed to answer the question, "What lies ahead for me?" For a Jan Admit, that question remains unanswered.

Among other choices, deciding to ship off to a foreign country, or taking a semester off to work, requires intense reflection. Then, after a semester away, the questions persist: What is life like on the hill? Where do I live? What are classes like? What are the people like? The list goes on and on.

The strongest criticism that I have of the January Admission program is that while abroad, I never really felt like a Hamilton College student. Rather, I felt like a temporary NYU in London student; a transient student stuck in educational limbo.

Hamilton must establish a stronger connection between the Hill and its displaced and delayed residents. The only real communication that my fellow

*see **Jan Admits**, page 5*



Cartoon by James Grebey '12
Staff Cartoonist

Jan Admits Face Unique Challenges

from ***Jan Admits****, page 4*

Jan Admits and I had with the College was a short video-conference with the college's upper level administration, a short meeting about the writing intensive program, and a meeting with a temporary advisor in order to choose classes for the spring.

It would have been nice to be able to talk to some students on the Hill while in London, to have some communication with student groups, or to have some of the Hamilton publications on hand for browsing. These little touches would facilitate the transition for Jan Admits.

This all changes, however, when a Jan Admit reaches Hamilton. It is much easier to integrate into the Hamilton scene than I would have expected. This place has an eclectic and colorful social fabric; personality and friendliness abound.

In essence, the integration process boils down to an excellent (although truncated) orientation program, combined with what the individual Jans do to get acquainted. The OLs are a wonderful resource for Jans, (my OL helped me move things into my new room and pointed out that he lived around the corner if I wanted to hang out) and they do their jobs admirably.

In terms of getting to know the campus on my own though, I frequented common areas such as a dorm common room or the KJ commons. Many people pass through the common areas, and there interesting relationships can develop in even the most random of circumstances.

I met my current roommates out of nowhere, when I was challenged to a Guitar Hero duel. It was a nice way to be welcomed to the Hill, and it answered at least one of those Jan Admit questions.

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UNDERWORLD RISE OF THE LYCANS — STADIUM SEATING
●1:20■3:30-5:40-7:50▲9:55 DTS R

INKHEART — STADIUM SEATING
●1:50-4:20-6:40▲8:55 BRENDAN FRASER DTS PG

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINEE
slumdog millionaire
●2:10-4:50-7:20▲9:50 R

PAUL BLART: MALL COP #1 MOVIE!
●12:35●2:50-5:00-7:10▲9:15 DTS PG

GRAN TORINO ●2:00-4:25-7:00▲9:30 DTS R

HOTEL FOR DOGS ●12:10●2:20-4:35-6:50▲9:00 PG

BLOODY VALENTINE ■12:45■3:00-5:20-7:30▲9:45 R

NOTORIOUS ●12:15●2:40-5:10-7:40▲10:00 R

THE UNBORN ●12:20-4:30-8:30 PG-13

BRIDE WARS ●2:25-6:30 KATE HUDSON PG

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Why would you like to be the sex columnist?
Any experience writing about/teaching sex?
Please include a brief writing sample (LESS than 500 words) that would indicate your style of writing/feelings toward sex topics.

We encourage creativity, and if you have any questions before submitting please feel free to ask.

From Where I Sit: Life as a Jan Admit

By Tory Grieves '12
Features Writer

The hardest thing about being a Jan was, come August, explaining to friends and family why I would be spending the fall semester in London. It was as if I'd suddenly become some sort of outcast. I had to confront the fact that I couldn't go to Hamilton in the fall, that the thought of Jet-settting to the UK was not out of the question and that I would not be starting college like every other "normal" freshman. Upon arrival in London I was, however, comforted to discover that most of the other Jans' loved ones had left them feeling timid and unsure, too. I particularly remember one conversation on the first day of orientation: Jan A: "Everyone was like, 'Why are you going to London? That's so weird.'" Jan B: "Yeah, I guess I thought it was… umm…cool…?" An insecure silence followed, and I wondered if maybe we Jans had been selected by the crafty Admissions staff because they realized we could be coerced into thinking that a completely weird idea was actually quite ba-

PHOTO COURTESY OF TORY GRIEVES '12

Hamilton students on the January Admission Program in London.

dass. If this is true, it turned out the school had me completely figured out.

As expected, life in Londontown was a new experience for all of us. Strangers now addressed the girls as "loves," we cooked all of our own meals everyday, and wellies became the footwear of choice for the twenty-minute walk to the University of London campus each day. Though these glimpses may initially seem like negatives, they collectively played an enormous and crucial role in facilitating incredibly, almost ridiculously close friendships among the group of Jans.

A highlight of the fall semester was my art history class. After learning about a specific movement in Western art, we would then meet our professor (who dated Jimi Hendrix...no joke) at a different gallery each week to see paintings we had discussed, in their original form. On our days off, my friends and I enjoyed exploring and bumming around London, especially if the mission involved finding the cheap Turkish restaurant our English teacher had recommended the day before. We also took to experiencing London the British way: riding the Tube, dressing up for a Harlequins rugby match and of course, knocking back Strongbows at The Rocket, our local and definitely grungy, pub.

Recalling these memories, I think that my time in London was essentially a three-month grace period to feel independent, cool, and mature: a grace period before officially joining Hamilton and embodying the semi-awkward freshman girl I've undeniably been dying to be since my acceptance to Hamilton.

HAMILTON COLLEGE

L$_1$ O$_1$ G$_2$ I$_1$ C$_3$ P$_3$ U$_1$ Z$_{10}$ Z$_{10}$ L$_1$ E$_1$

By Russell Marcus
Professor of Philosophy

Once upon a time, the electricity on the North and South sides of campus was completely unconnected. In those days, there was an enormous mountain, Thompson Peak, where College Hill Road is now. Travel between the two sides of campus took weeks, and many brave students lost their lives traversing the great range. In those days, each student had to come to campus with his or her own work- mule to carry supplies for the great trek between the library on the north side of campus and the dorms on the south.

Before Thompson Peak was leveled, then-president Johanne Chamberlain declared that the electricity on the two sides of campus should be connected. The heroic men and women of physical plant took two years to dig a small conduit, and inserted 501 identical wires between the two sides. Unfortunately, they neglected to leave any indication of which wire ends on the north side corresponded to which ends on the south side. The mountain settled on top of the tunnel, and there was no way to remove the wires. A new tunnel would take another two years to dig. And, since this was in the days before telephones or helicopters, the only way to figure out which south-side ends corresponded to which north-side ends was to send an electrical signal through wires on one side and then travel to the other side to see which wires were live on the other end.

Your challenge is to travel back in time to help the workers identify the ends of the wires on each side. You must minimize the number of trips required across Thompson peak in order to label each wire, from 1 to 501, with matching numbers on each side. You are permitted to connect wires on one side or the other. Connected wires will conduct electricity through the connection. You can connect or disconnect as many wires, and as often, as you please. Solutions will contain complete instructions and the minimum number of trips.

Bonus question: What would the minimum number of trips be if there were 502 wires?

Rules

Complete solutions may be sent to puzzle@hamilton.edu. Or, via campus mail, to Russell Marcus, Philosophy Department. Make sure to include your contact information with your solution. The Puzzler will choose a best solution. In the case of several best solutions, a winner will be chosen at random from among them. Any one may play the puzzle, but only current Hamilton College students may win prizes. If the winner of the puzzle is not a Hamilton College student, a secondary winner may be chosen.

Prizes

Prize winners receive a t-shirt or mug from Lulasail, home of the best philosophy t-shirts on the web, or from The Unemployed Philosopher's Guild, which also has a wide range of philosophy paraphernalia.

The Deadline for Puzzle #3 is Tuesday, January 27, at 4pm. All entries must be received by that time.
Visit our website: www.thatmarcusfamily.org/philosophy/Puzzles/Puzzles_Home.htm

Bachelor & Bachelorette of the Week

This week: The new Student Assembly President Amy Goldstein '11 and Vice President Edwin Gaston '11

Edwin Gaston '11

Age: *20*
Eye Color: *Dark Brown*
Height: *5'7"*

Sign: *Scorpio*
Hometown: *Hyde Park, MA*
Major: *Sociology*
On Campus Activities: *The Brothers Organization, SA (VP all day), POSSE, IM Soccer and other randomness*
Off Campus Activities: *VITA member, Harvard Crimson Academy, Project:Think Different*

Interested In: *Women*
What You Are Looking For Now: *Someone chill, that won't take me or themselves too seriously, with a deep appreciation for my caballo.*
Best On Campus Date: *Eels balcony, fire roaring, stars blazing all that good stuff*
Best Off Campus Date: *Whatever I can afford*

What is your ideal date wearing? *A bucket of chicken*
Turn Ons: *Sense of humor*
Turn Offs: *Taller than me*

Favorites
Place to Hangout on Campus: *Diner*
Favorite exercise at the gym: *The desk swiping cards*
Song: *Nike Boots by W.A.L.E*
Book: *"The Seductions of Crime," never read it, but it sounded good in class*
Movie: *Sin City*
"Guilty Pleasure" Movie: *The Rugrats Movie*
Celeb Crush: *Kim Kardashian*
Campus Crush: *Semma (They know who they are) and South 308*
Faculty Crush: *Ew*
Breakfast: *An omelet and bacon sandwiched between 2 waffles*
Favorite T.V. Show: *House MD*
Reality TV Show: *Secret Millionaire "All men dream, but not equally."*

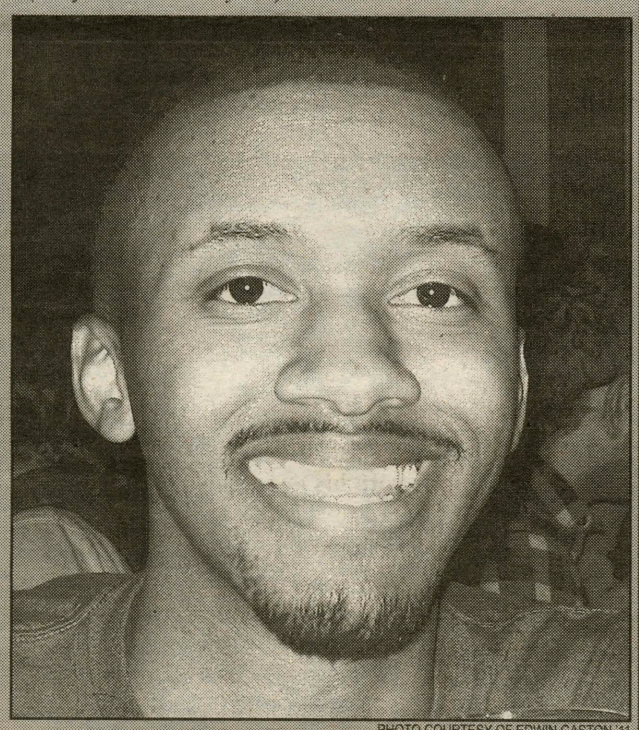


PHOTO COURTESY OF EDWIN GASTON '11

Car: *Bugatti Veyron or '94 Supra*

Ors
Light side or Dark side? *Dark Side*
Innie or Outie? *Innie*
Coffee or Tea? *Sprite*
Midnight Rendezvous or Afternoon Delight? *Afternoon delight*
Opus or DD? *DD*
Keystone light or Keystone Ice? *Light*
Annex or ELS basement? *Annex*
KJ or Science Center? *Science Center*

My most attractive quality: *I stay calm even when my world is falling apart*
Weirdest decoration in my room: *Wall of 20+ fitted hats*
The outfit that epitomizes me: *Purple sneakers, jeans and a T-shirt with a loud graphic on it*

If I could go anywhere in the world I would go to: *Brazil*
If I were a cartoon character, I would be: *Brian from Family Guy*

The best pick-up line I have used: *Say Daddy*
The best pick-up line that has worked on me: *Nice car, can I drive?*
How can someone tell that you are interested? *Eyes, will look you up and down from afar.*

If I were out with a date & were charged by a bear I would: *Say "that sucks" and sprint for the car*

Amy Goldstein '11

Age: *20*
Eye Color: *Blue*
Height: *5'4"*
Hair: *Red/Strawberry-blond...it's debatable.*

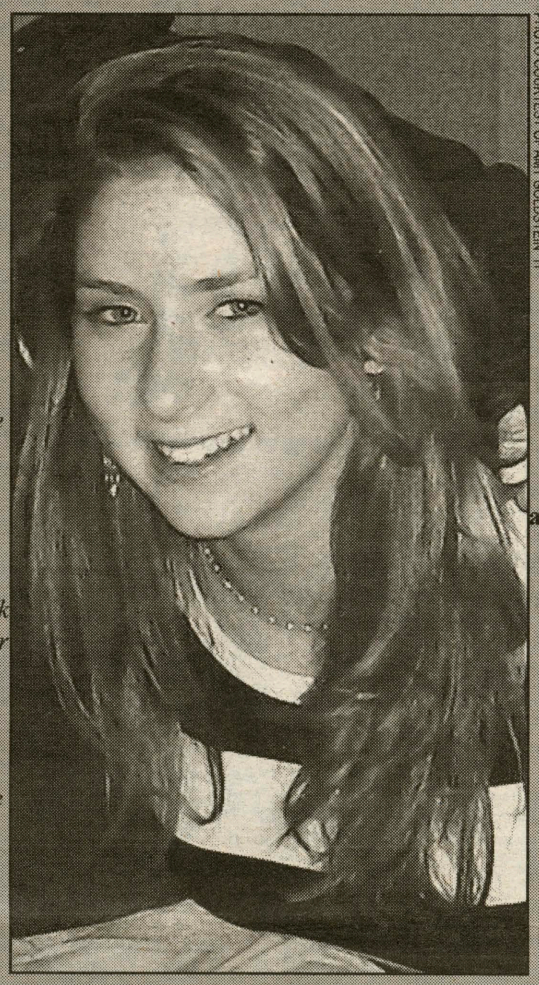


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY GOLDSTEIN '11

Sign: *Aquarius*
Hometown: *Greenwich, CT*
Major: *Government/History*
On Campus Activities: *Student Assembly President, HEAT, PBX, figure skating, intramural hockey*
Off Campus Activities: *The weekly trip to Hannaford, the occasional CVS run*

If you were to prepare romantic dinner, what would be on the menu? *A medium-rare NY Strip steak and a delicious, crispy caesar salad*
Best On Campus Date: *Snowshoeing in the glen*
Best Off Campus Date: *Dinner at Nola's and a movie*

What is your ideal date wearing? *A smile.*
Turn Ons: *Outgoing, funny, smart, and ideally has an accent*
Turn Offs: *Lack of personality*

Favorites
Place to Hangout on Campus: *Commons*
Favorite exercise at the gym: *Elliptical*
Song: *Satellite, Dave Matthews Band*
Book: *"A People's History of the United States" by Howard Zinn*
Movie: *Most recently, "Slumdog Millionaire"*
"Guilty Pleasure" Movie: *"The Cutting Edge"*
Celeb Crush: *Channing Tatum from "Step Up"*
Campus Crush: *Too many...what can I say, admissions did a great job.*
Breakfast: *Bacon, egg, and cheese on a perfectly toasted sesame bagel*
Favorite T.V Show: *Friday Night Lights*
Reality TV Show: *Top Chef/The Hills*

Most attractive organization on campus: *Student Assembly*

Car: *My younger brother stole it from me...it's a touchy subject.*

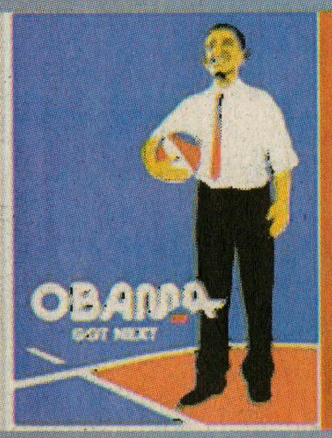
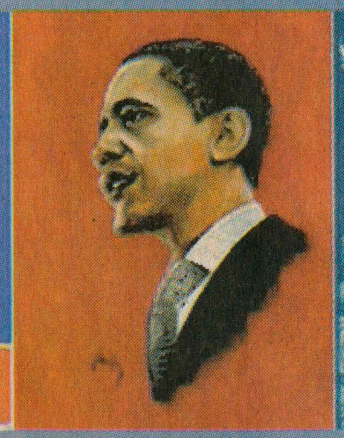
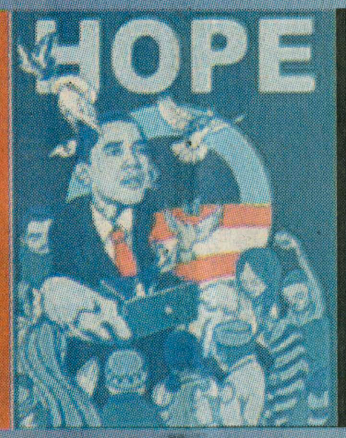
Ors
Light side or Dark side? *BUNDY*
Innie or Outie? *Innie*
Coffee or Tea? *Decaf either...*
Midnight Rendezvous or Afternoon Delight? *Afternoon Delight*
Rok or VT? *VT*
Mac or PC? *Mac*
Opus or DD? *Opus, except DD hot chocolate, amazing.*
Keystone light or Keystone Ice? *Light*
Annex or ELS basement? *ELS basement*
KJ or Science Center? *KJ*

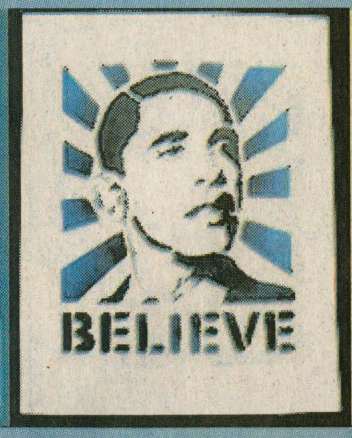
My most attractive quality: *My hair*
Weirdest thing in my room: *My foot massager*
The outfit that epitomizes me: *Furry boots and my puffy blue jacket*

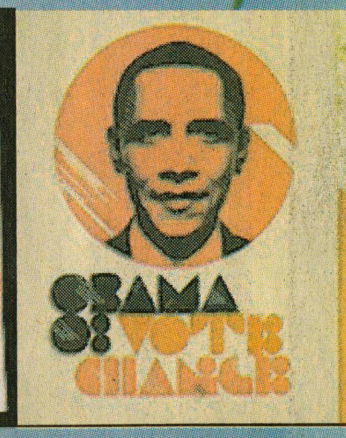
If I could go anywhere in the world I would go to: *Hummus Bros in London, soo good.*
If I were a cartoon character, I would be: *Dori from "Finding Nemo"*

The best pick-up line I have used: *Hi, I'm Amy Goldstein.*
The best pick-up line that has worked on me: *They've never worked.*
How can someone tell that you are interested? *Oh, they'll know.*

The INAUGURATION of

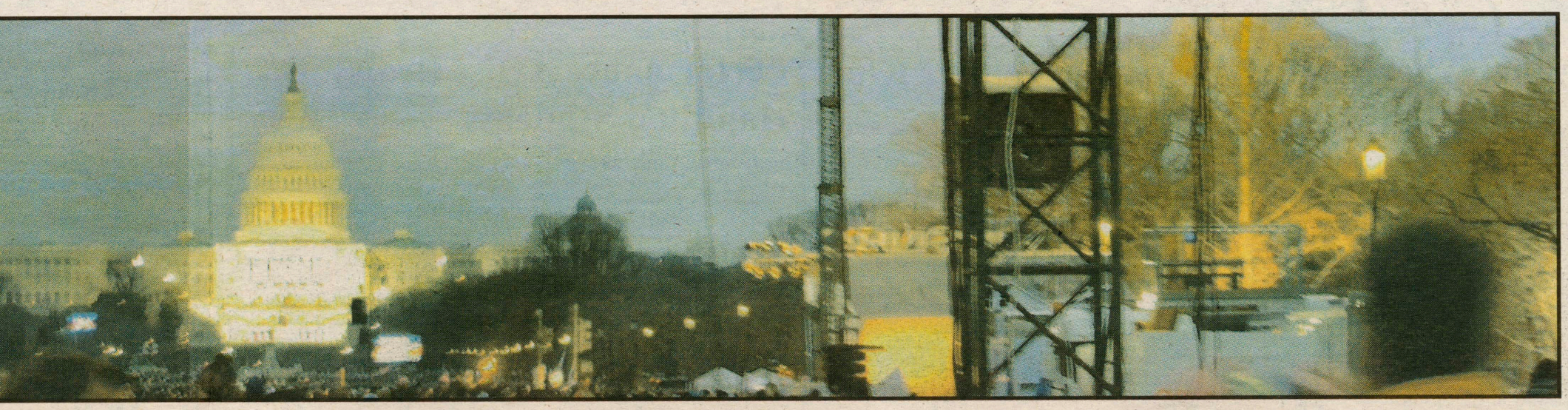


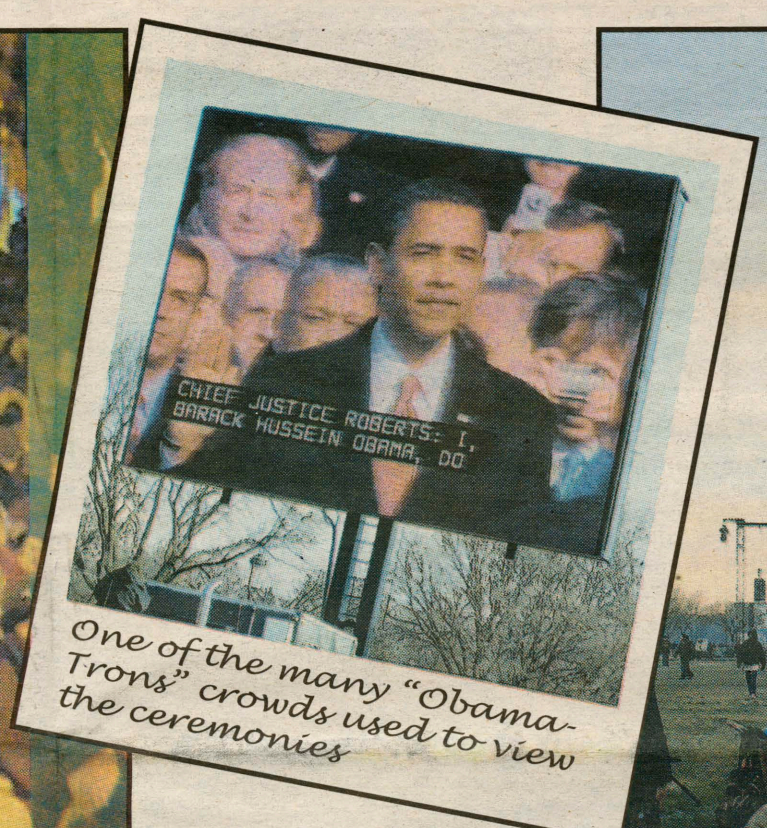


As seen through the camera lenses of Hamilton College students, Dan Allen '09, James Russell '09, Dave Riordan '09, Kye Lippold '10 and Will Leubsdorf '10

Student Kye Lippold '10, shows off Obama propaganda.

and Will Leubsdorf '10, in attendance at the historic January 20, 2009 oath.





One of the many "Obama-Trons" crowds used to view the ceremonies

'10, shows
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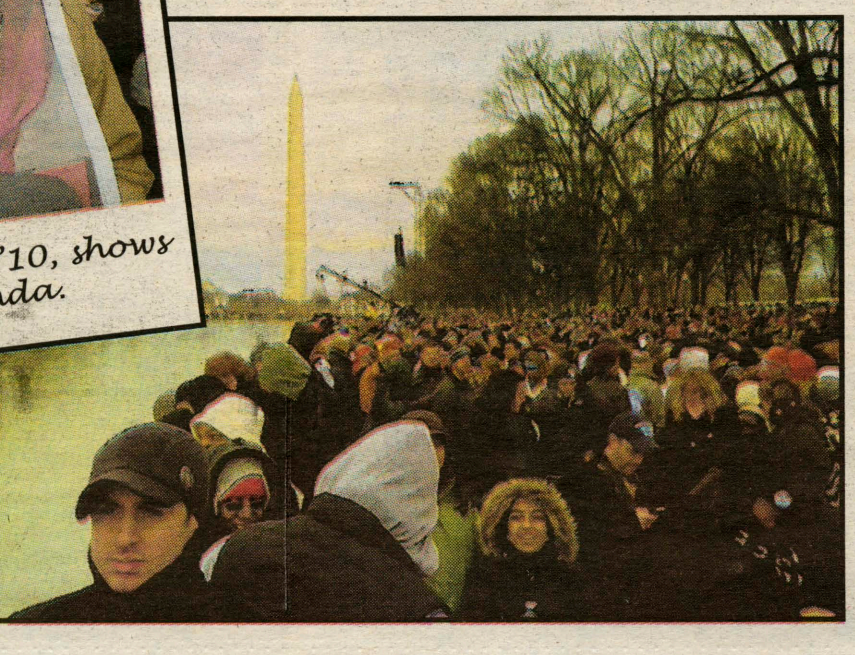
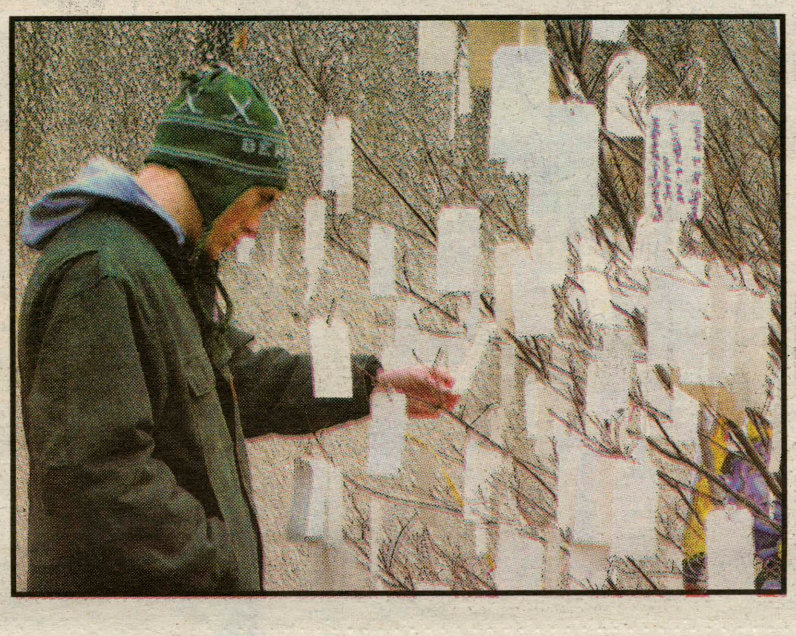




Inauguration Reflections

by Wenxi Li '10
Hamilton's D.C. Program

It wasn't until January 16, when I saw an entire street lined with port-a-potties, that I realized Obama's inauguration was finally happening. I had seen so many Obama signs hanging in the windows and vendors selling miniature buttons of the First Family "elect" that the Obama fascination seemed to be part of the DC experience. Turning into 10th Street on my way to intern at the Department of Justice Friday morning, however, made me understand the day that myself and millions of others had waited for, would finally arrived.

To me, the inauguration of Obama's presidency represents more than a change of administration, new economic solutions, or the historic placement of the nation's first African American president. As cliché as it sounds, I believe he has provided Americans with much-needed hope, especially during today's domestic and foreign climates. I could feel it everywhere. Standing on the National Mall, a few hundred feet from the Washington Monument, it was hard to imagine the number of people who had come to see this succession ritual. But here they all were, braving the freezing temperatures and getting to the Mall as early as 1 a.m. to get prime spots in front of the closest teleprompter screens to the Capitol.

Despite the weather, everyone around me seemed cheerful, thankful that they could be here on this "historical day." This feeling of optimism only continued as the screens re-played Sunday's 'We Are One' Inaugural Concert in front of the Lincoln Memorial, people singing along to 'Shout' and 'One Love' as they eagerly waited for the guests of honor to arrive. Maybe they were dancing to stay warm and singing to pass the time, but the energy was undeniable when chants of 'O-ba-ma' filled the air every time he appeared on the screen.

Obama's speech certainly didn't disappoint the crowd. His words also resonated with me. The decisions that Obama makes, especially during his first 100 days, will greatly influence and define his presidency. As a college student one year away from the professional world, my life will be affected by Obama's direction for the country, whether it is through health care reform or America's place in international diplomacy. It is too early to tell what Obama will strive to accomplish and what he will actually accomplish during his time in office, but the sense of hope and optimism that he brings positively affects us all. It is this hope, found through his rhetoric, persona, and beliefs that allows us to look toward a bright future.

My roommate's mother asked us during dinner this weekend where we thought Obama was four years ago during the last inauguration. We all decided that during President George W. Bush's inauguration no one would have guessed that Obama would become the 44th U.S. President. Yet with hard work, perseverance and hope, Obama is a walking example of the American Dream. Who could be better to lead Americans to their dreams than someone who has achieved it himself?

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Dinner Theater Honors Martin Luther King

by Lyndra Vassar '09
Arts & Entertainment Writer

In celebration of Martin Luther King Day, The Hamilton College Theatre Department presented a compelling performance of Anna Deavere Smith's *Fires in the Mirror.* Directed by Theatre professor, Mark Cryer, the play consisted of several monologues based on interviews with African American and Jewish residents of Crown Height's, Brooklyn after the city's tumultuous race riots in 1991.

The riots occurred when a Hasidic man's car jumped a curb and killed Gavin Cato, a black seven-year-old child. In the aftermath of Cato's death, Yankel Rosenbaum, a Hasidic rabbi, was stabbed to death in what appeared to be an act of retaliation by the Black community. The violence only ensued; what was previously considered a tolerant community of coexisting races rapidly transformed into one of the most violent uprisings in New York City. In this series of interwoven monologues, Smith documents a multi-layered perspective of the event and hatred that ravaged the community.

The play's cast of eight Hamilton students - Christian Baxter, Kadanhj Bennett, Brianna Felton, Jocelyn Bos-Fisher, Cindy Reyes, Amr Rouvan Mahmud, and Colin Wheeler – effectively revived the voices of Crown Heights' residents, forcing the audience to relive a historical moment taut with racial tension, violence, and confusion. Drawn verbatim from Smith's interviews, each monologue presented a candid portrayal of racial identities, religions and cultural perplexities of the time. Within these performances, Hamilton students engaged in diverse roles ranging from Reverend Al Sharpton (Christian Baxter) to an anonymous Lubvitcher woman (Jocelyn Bos-Fisher).

The 29 characters within the play culminated to achieve what Mark Cryer stated as the primary objective of Fires in the Mirror: celebrating culture. "Students on the Hill wanted to do plays that speak to culture," he explained. It appears that the play not only "spoke to culture" but also to the intersections of gender, race, and religion incited in understanding collective identities, recreating a history for the audience that was jolting yet impactful.

After two sold out performances during the previous week, Fires in the Mirror will be presented this weekend at Cazenovia College on Friday, Jan. 23, at 7 p.m. in the Catherine E. Cummings Theatre.

PHOTO COURTESY OF HAMILTON.EDU.

Students performed *Fires in the Mirror* in honor of MLK Day in Hamilton's Events Barn.

Revolutionary Road is an Intense Journey

Rebekah Mintzer '09
Senior Editor

One of the better films I saw this break was Sam Mendes' *Revolutionary Road,* based on the novel of the same name by Richard Yates. The movie's release prompted instant Academy Awards talk and general hype, largely because it pairs Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio as romantic leads for the first time since *Titanic.* This time, however, Kate and Leo's romance has matured, and the obstacles they face as a couple are somehow more ominous than a rogue iceburg.

For a movie about the stifling qualities of 50s conformity, a topic that has been rehashed many times in film and literature, *Revolutionary Road* proves to be executed quite well. It prevents itself from being trite because it focuses more about the inner lives and relationships of two main characters than about the themes of conformity itself. Rather than just lashing out at the complacency of 2.5 kids, commuting and a white picket fence, *Revolutionary Road* allows its main characters Frank (DiCaprio) and April Wheeler (Winslet) to battle internally with a perplexing question: what happens when we grow up and find that our dreams and ambitions have not come true?

The premise of the story is simple. Frank and April live in 1950s suburban Connecticut. Frank commutes to a job he hates in the city, and pines for another way of life where he can have a more meaningful and personally fulfilling role in the world. April, an aspiring actress turned housewife, spends the day alone in the house while their two kids are at school, mostly keeping to herself except for an occasional caller like her friend and realtor, Helen (Kathy Bates) or the conventional couple next door (David Harbour and Kathryn Hahn). One day, April and Frank hatch a plan that seems anathema to the conventional folk around them- they will go to Paris so that Frank can find himself while April works to support the family. This decision sets off series of events that dramatically alter both the Wheelers and the lives of those around them.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLMOVIEPHOTOS.COM

DiCaprio and Winslet star in Revoluionary Road.

Both Winslet and DiCaprio perform extremely well in this movie. Winslet is especially deserving of the critical praise and Best Actress Golden Globe she has received for this film. Her facial expressions alone convey everything we need to know about a character in a downward spiral of love, loss, and confusion. April and Frank's fights and moments of romantic passion register with equal genuineness. The supporting cast is excellent as well, particularly Michael Shannon as John, Helen's "insane" son, who is ironically the only person who can surmise exactly what April and Frank are really feeling towards each other and is not afraid to tell them out loud.

Sure, the movie can feel too "staged" at points, and the visual symbolism is at times heavy-handed. Take for example, a climactic scene in which Winslet runs into the green woods near her house to escape societal and marital pressures. However, the film deserves credit for its first-rate acting, gorgeous cinematography and defiance of some of the conventions of the 50s conformity drama.

Performance Artist Draws in Hamilton Students

by Jennifer Vano '09
Arts & Entertainment Editor

On Wednesday, January 21st, performance artist and sculptor Cindy Tower held a lecture and workshop for Hamilton students, faculty members and visitors.

Cindy aimed to offer students a brief "lineage" of the art that has inspired her, showing viewers examples of pieces and performances by Antin, McReyonlds, Sherman and others. Her art, which often incorporates sculture and a performance element--for example, before Cindy could afford studio space, she created wearable sculptures for her friends to tote around NYC--relies heavily upon the materials and environments available.

Cindy also relies on costume and clothing to inform her art. For this Hamilton event, she asked that attendees wear costumes, and the petite Cindy was decked out in gold cape and silver boots. She claims that one's clothing can affect one's mood and therefore the direction that aspects of or entire pieces take.

Several dozen students and faculty members partook in Reynolds's "Human Drafspeople" project; each person drew the archiecture of the room and their neighbors on two easels simultaneously. The edges of these drawings had to line up with each other and with those of their neighbor's drawings. The drawings will be hung side by side to create one large and coherent piece.

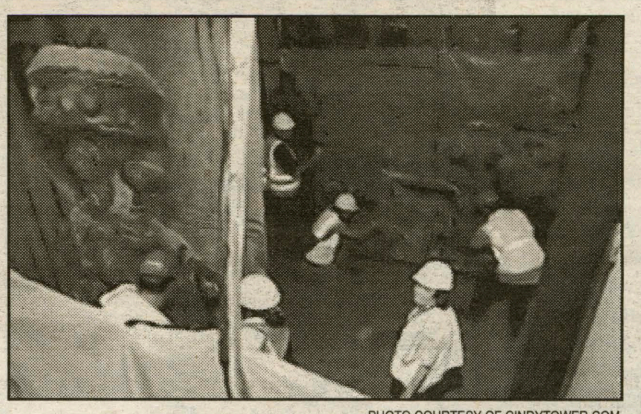


PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDYTOWER.COM.

In "Factory," Reynolds reconstructed an Illinois factory in the South Bronx.

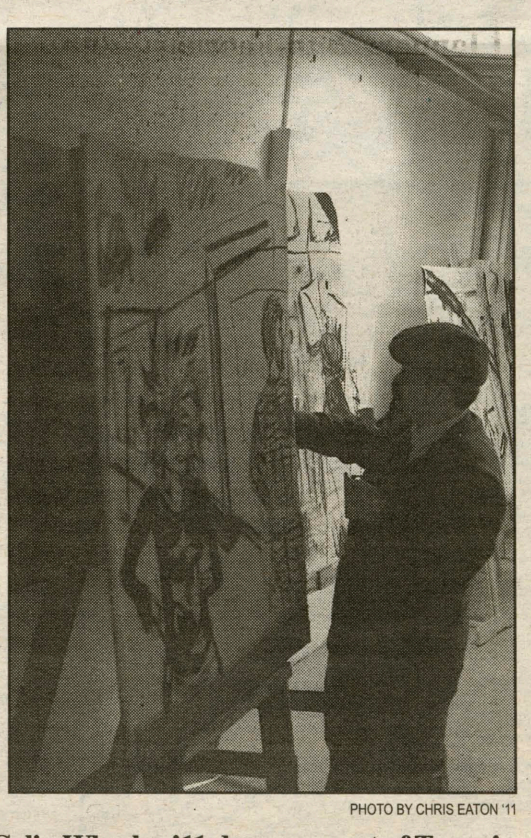


PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11

Colin Wheeler '11 draws as part of Tower's "Draftspeople" project.

PHOTO BY CHRIS EATON '11.

Cindy Tower inspired students and faculty members to work together to draw people and architecture.

Hamilton Choir Sings in NYC

by Rachel Pohl '11
Arts & Entertainment Editor

This past Saturday night, the Hamilton College Choir in conjunction with the University Glee Club (UGC) performed in front of hundreds in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center in New York City. Avery Fisher Hall is the home of America's oldest symphony orchestra, the New York Philharmonic. The 60-member Choir sang several songs including "Babylone," "My Lord, What a Mornin'," "Ave Maria," and "Jubilate Deo." Professor of music and director of choral music at Hamilton, G. Roberts Kolb is responsible for directing the choir and the College Hill singers. Both groups boast a continued tradition of superiority in choral singing for over a century. The Choir travels regularly; last spring break, the group traveled across the Midwest and will go to Italy this upcoming spring break. Over the last 18 years, the choir has undertaken five concert tours in Europe.

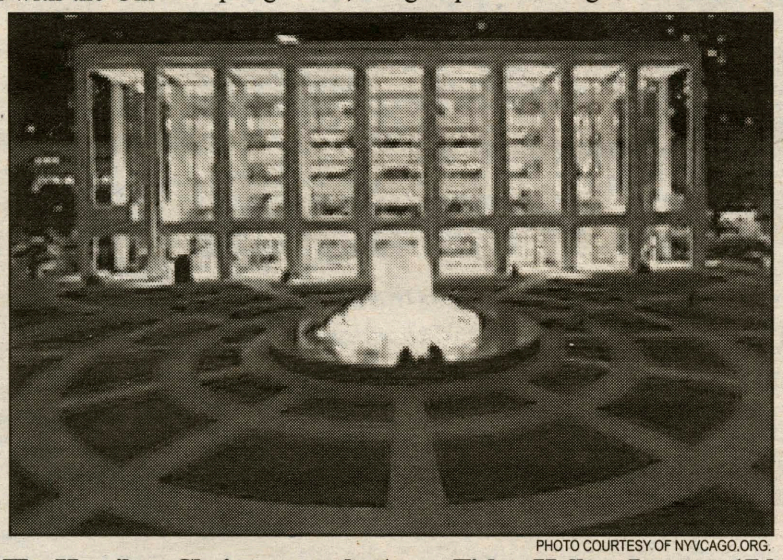


PHOTO COURTESY OF NYVCAGO.ORG.

The Hamilton Choir sang at the Avery Fisher Hall on January 17th.

The Hamilton College Choir and the UGC sang four songs together. Founded in 1886, the UGC is a male singing group with 120 active members. The club encourages excellence in singing; members are of all ages from recent college graduates to older men who have been in the group for decades. The group sings a wide range of music including Broadway, classical, sea chanteys, and traditional college songs. The UGC is closely connected with Hamilton, as John Low Baldwin, a director of Hamilton's Choir in the 1950s and 60s, and member of Hamilton's music faculty, was the conductor of the UGC for 39 years.

This Week In...

Music

Top Albums

1. Taylor Swift-Fearless
2. Nickelback-Dark Hose
3. Kanye West-808s and Heartbreak
4. Beyonce-I am...Sasha Fierce
5.Soundtrack-Twilight

Movies

Top Films

1. Paul Blart: Mall Cop
2. Gran Torino
3. My Bloody Valentine
4. Notorious
5. Hotel for Dogs

Books

Bestsellers Fiction

1. *Plum Spooky* **by Janet Evanovich**
2. *The Host* **by Stephenie Meyer**
3. *Black OPS* **by W.E.B. Griffin**
4. *Scarpetta* **by Patricia Cornwell**
5. *The Story of Edgar Sawtelle* **by David Roblewski**

Upcoming at Hamilton

January 20th-February 20th

"Friends" Exhibit Remembers Those Lost to Drunk Drivers

Hamilton College is hosting the "Friends," exhibit, a memorial to young people whose lives have been lost to automobile accidents involving drunk drivers, from Jan. 20 through Feb. 20 in the Blood Fitness Center Juice Bar. It is free and open to the public. The exhibit is sponsored by Hamilton's Athletics Department.

The main purpose of the exhibit is to make teenagers and college-age students aware of how quickly the lives of those involved in DWI tragedies, as well as those of families and friends of the victims, can change.

The exhibit highlights the lives of four Colgate University students who died in an alcohol-related auto accident in November of 2000. Numerous personal effects, including photographs of the victims' accomplishments, books, trophies and stuffed animals are included as a part of the display. Also displayed are pictures of the fatal crash, police documents, interviews with family and friends and a timeline outlining the students last hours up to the accident.

The combination of these elements creates an emotional reaction in observers, with the goal of behavioral change. This approach creates a powerful message that may deter college-age students from driving after consuming alcohol.

Friday January 23, 2009

Painted Protests: Art As Activism, Siddhartha Joag

Siddhartha Joag is a visual artist/sociologist and cultural activist whose work has been exhibited nationally and internationally in commercial, alternative and public spaces including: the Asian/Pacific/American Institute at NYU, Asia Society, the Bowery Poetry Club, Yale University, Amherst College, VOCAS arts space, the IndoCenter for Arts and Culture. Over the past six years he has worked as an artist-in-residence, teaching artist, program director and counselor with marginalized communities in the Bronx, Chinatown and the Lower East Side of New York City, India and China.

Joag will give a talk titled "Sociology of the Saturated Mind" in KJ102 at 4p.m. on Friday January 23. He will discuss the "parallels and overlap between visual arts, cultural work, and sociological study," including examples like graffiti, community arts, cultural/resistance movements, and ethnography as creative process. He will also talk about his work with the ZeroCapital collective (www.zerocapital.net) and BorderStatements, a community-based art center near the China-Burma border.

On Saturday January 24, he will have a workshop in List 104 at 2pm.

Saturday January 24

Bluegrass Legend Ralph Stanley and the Clinch Mountain Boys

at 8 pm in Wellin Hall
$18 campus community/$5 students
The box office will be open THURSDAY, Jan 22 12 noon - 1 pm and FRIDAY, Jan 23 3-4 pm for walk up sales.

On Saturday, at 3:00 p.m. the Kirkland Art Center, (East Park Row in Clinton) will host a workshop on Ralph Stanley, his music and influence on bluegrass. The workshop will be presented by Lydia Hamessley, Professor of Music at Hamilton College and will include music by Lost Time. Free for evening concert ticket holders, $5 all others.

All information provided Michele Reiser-Memmer, Arts Administrator

Like movies, music, books, video games, art?

Want to write for Arts and Entertainment?

The Spectator is now calling for new writers. Contact rpohl or jvano at any time with inquiries.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

A Dramatic Physics Lesson: the Hudson Miracle

by Elijah LaChance '10
Science & Technology Editor

"We're going to be in the Hudson" has become a household phrase since US Airways Flight 1549 ditched successfully in the Hudson River on January 15, narrowly missing the George Washington Bridge. Every passenger escaped alive; even every pet made it out unscathed, making the "Miracle on the Hudson" the most successful emergency landing in the history of commercial flight. The story is now well-known to most of the United States as well as the world over. The question that remains is how such a heavy object, hurtling toward the Earth at such a mind-boggling speed, could survive the impact and, having done so, remain afloat long enough for the passengers to escape onto the waiting ferries.

Flight 1549 was an Airbus A320. It was 123 feet, three inches long and had a wingspan of 111 feet, ten inches. Even more startlingly, the maximum takeoff weight of such a model is 162,000 lbs., or roughly 80 tons. The plane was at an approximate altitude of 3,000 feet when the aircraft collided with birds, losing both engines. From that point on, the plane accelerated toward the ground at a rate of 9.81 meters/second/second. How did such an object survive the impact with the water without shearing into pieces?

Associate Professor of Physics and pilot Seth Major provided an answer. "The wings are pretty strong on these planes," he pointed out, explaining how they remained attached to the body of the aircraft on impact with the frigid water. "They have to support a pretty big load just during flight." "The river was also very calm that day, very flat. There were no waves, no little bits of water sticking up." Hitting a wave, Major suggested, would be akin to running into a building, potentially slowing down the front of the plane while the rear of the plane was still accelerating, causing the plane to flip over and break into pieces.

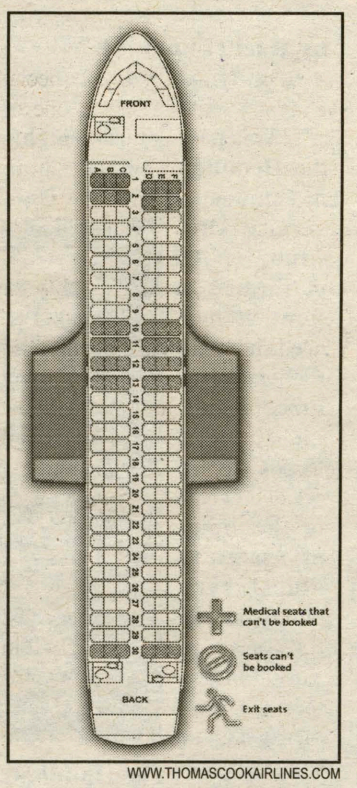
Likewise, Major explained why the flight's pilot - Captain Chelsey "Sully" Sullenberger III - landed the back end of the plane before touching down the nose. "If the plane landed nose first, the front of the plane would slow down, but the back of the plane would still be going pretty fast and the plane would flip over," he explained. "He [Sulleberger] put it down just like a glider." Of course, since Capt. Sullenberger flew gliders as a hobby, that was probably more than a coincidence. Major added, "It was a really great landing; it had a lot to do with everybody getting out alive."

WWW.GUARDIAN.CO.UK

A US Airways plane crashed into the Hudson River, but managed to stay afloat long enough to allow the Coast Guard and other ferries to rescue the passengers.

Even understanding how the plane was undamaged on impact, how did an 80-ton aircraft stay afloat for nearly an hour before sinking only slightly? Major explained that lightness and buoyancy are not the same thing; an object can be incredibly heavy and still float. He used large ships as an example. "Think of a steel boat," he said. "A steel boat can still float even though it weighs a lot. It has the hollow part inside, and the air in the hollow part displaces the water, so the boat doesn't sink." "Remember," he added, "this is a pressurized aircraft. The passenger cabin and... also the baggage compartment are pressurized." When asked the reason for the pressurization, Major explained that at 35,000 feet - the usual cruising altitude for commercial jet liners - the air would be too thin for the passengers to breathe unless the pressure of air in the cabin was kept at ground level.

Major also pointed out the long stretch of flotation suggested that, "the underbelly [of the plane] was undamaged" due to the excellent landing. "Eventually," he said, "water got in, but they were able to get everybody off by then." Usually, people don't think of a plane as a boat, but on flight 1549, for about an hour, "that's what it was," Major said.



WWW.THOMASCOOKAIRLINES.COM

In addition, Major cited the fact that only one engine was missing from the plane as

*see **A Physics**, page 16*

iPod, iPhone... iHamilton?

by Olivia B. Waxman '11
Science & Technology Writer

Just when you thought the Apple iPhone and iPod Touch could do everything short of laundry, two Stanford juniors rolled out the Stanford iPhone Project to keep their fellow students perpetually connected and in-the-know.

Launched on Oct. 1, 2008, by Kayvon Beykpour and Aaron Wasserman of Terriblyclever Design, iStanford, made up of five iApps, further facilitates information flow on campus, enhancing the student-life experience. MobilEdu is the name of the product, and as it is implemented at individual universities, the name changes to fit the school, hence "iStanford," according to Wasserman, a Managing Partner of Terriblyclever.

Currently, Stanford only offers a line of applications for the iPhone and iPod Touch. In fact, half of the University's 8,000 students own one of these Apple devices. Within the suite of applications, users can look up contact information for professors or fellow classmates in the "Directory." The "Maps" program enables students to pinpoint any given location on campus from the palm of their hands. Sports fans can log into "Athletics" to view scores, travel schedules, and post-game analyses of their favorite Cardinal teams. Students can check out their tuition balances and view past statements on "ePay." Soon, the "Courses" app will allow students to not only scan the course catalog, but also to add and drop courses.

Stanford's Assistant Registrar Celeste Fowles welcomes this new option enabling students to register for classes from their mobiles.

"This program is unique because the Stanford administration provided the student developers with secure access to the University information system," Fowles explained. "iStanford is an exciting new use of technology to help improve the experiences of Stanford students. I hope this starts a trend for other colleges to offer more services to students on mobile devices."

While Stanford sophomore Tessa Price reports that the suite of iPhone applications "runs fairly smoothly," she does admit that the "Courses" application takes the longest of the five to load.

"['Courses'] is convenient to look at courses, but I will probably do most of my course searching on my laptop, rather than on my iPhone, unless it becomes faster, or perhaps when they add the updated version where you can add and drop classes," Price said. "For now, it's just a catalog of classes to look at, rather than a site to actually use."

Overall, however, Price says she "frequently" uses the iApps and raves about their convenience and user-friendly design.

WWW1.GLOBE.COM

"I'd have to say that the map is probably my favorite part of the application because I use it the most to find where a party or a new class is located," she said. "Stanford is the second biggest campus in the world—it's easy to get lost."

Indeed, the university found its way to the software developer Terriblyclever through Apple once the iPhone software development

*see **Synchronize**, page 16*

Did You Know That?
Wacky Facts: The Pursuit of Happiness

by Saad Chaudhry '12
Science & Technology Editor

- Americans consider happiness more important to them than money, moral goodness, and even going to Heaven.
- Americans are, on average, only sixty-nine percent happy.
- The world population is, on average, less than sixty-five percent happy.
- Thrity-seven percent of the people on *Forbes'* list of Wealthiest Americans are less happy than the average American.
- At any given time, one forth of Americans are mildly depressed.
- Fourteen percent of the nations on Earth are less than fifty percent happy.
- American children feel happy fifty-two percent of the time, neutral twenty-nine percent of the time, and unhappy nineteen percent of the time.
- Happiness Increase Experiments published in a peer review journal have empirically demonstrated that individuals can be trained to be twenty-five percent happier through various training programs in from two to ten weeks.
- All demographic variables combined, including age, sex, income, race, and education, are responsible for only fifteen percent of the difference in happiness levels between certain individuals.
- The average personal income in the U.S. has increased more than two and a half times over the last fifty years, but their happiness level has remained the same.
- Americans earning more that $10 million annually are only slightly happier than average Americans.
- The World's Happiest Countries are as follows: 1) Nigeria, 2) Mexico, 3) Venezuela, 4) El Salvador, 5) Puerto Rico.

Charles Darwin's Bicentennial Birthday Bash

by Yinghan Ding '12
Science & Technology Writer

The year 2009 is a special year for Charles Darwin, one of the greatest biologists in history. It marks both the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species* and the 200th anniversary of his birth.

The great biologist was born on Feb. 12, 1809, in a small town called Shrewsbury in England. Darwin's father was a doctor, so young Darwin was sent to study medicine in Edinburgh. However, it did not take long for the Darwin family to realize that a medical career was not suitable for young Charles. He then transferred to study ministry at Cambridge where he befriended a biology professor, John Henslow, and developed a strong interest in that field. He went on a voyage to the Galapagos Islands, and later to some of the southern islands, to the South American coast and to Australia. Darwin's experiences on these legendary trips provided a substantial contribution to his life's work. Afterward, he published his first book, *The Voyage of the Beagle* (1840), in which he described his adventure in the southern islands.

As his experiences accumulated, Darwin started to question the teachings of Genesis, which claimed that every species was created whole and never changed through the ages. Instead, it seemed obvious to Darwin that the current state of existence was the result of some developmental process that had taken millions of years. What this process really was and how it worked became Darwin's focus for almost 20 years. During these years, he recalled his own experiences as well as the data he had gathered from his voyages. He read widely from many learned journals. Darwin finally published his conclusions from his research in 1859 with the book *On the Origin of Species*, which is now thought of as the leading work in natural philosophy and the history of life on Earth.

In general terms, Darwin's theory is that life evolves through a process called "natural selection," which was determined through the "survival of the fittest." "There is grandeur in this view of life…" Darwin said to the world, "From so simple a beginning endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been and are being, evolved." The theory was not completely new to the world, so the credit given to Darwin was not for discovering it, but instead for gathering indisputable evidence and thus setting forth a theory showing how evolution actually works. Darwin had earned his place in the history of biology, and his name remains well known to every household even 200 years after his birth.

His 200th birthday celebration will be primarily held in the United Kingdom. The organizer of Darwin200, The Natural History Museum, announced its recent plan for the big celebration. The celebration will begin on July 1, 2009, which will mark 150 years since Darwin and his colleague Wallace announced their theory that shocked the entire science field and society. The celebration will continue until November 24, 2009, which was the 150th anniversary of the official publication of the book *On the Origin of Species*.

Several very exciting activities are scheduled to involve more young people in the celebration throughout the year. The post-celebration activity, The Great Plant Hunt, will be held in March across the United Kingdom. Every state primary school in the UK will be sent a "Darwin Treasure Chest." These will be packed with resources enabling the children to do real science inside and outside the classroom by exploring habitats, growing plants, and collecting seeds.

There is also an activity appropriate for college students. The project Evolution Megalab is a mass experiment run by the Open University and Royal Society. They ask people to record observations online about banded snails in gardens or in parks. If you have the habit of catching small animals just as Darwin did, you might be interested in participating in the global celebration by simply recording and updating your observation of snails. You can search "Darwin200" online to get more information about all the interesting events that will take place this year.

WWW.CALACADEMY.ORG

Professor of Biology Wei-Jen Chang summarized Darwin's impact by stating, "[he] recognized that living organisms are changing from generation to generation and proposed that given sufficient time new species could have arisen. While this idea of evolution seems rational, when Darwin made his proposal the bible was dominating the thought on the origin of species and there was no knowledge about the law of inheritance, either. Darwin broke the myth and provided us with a fundamental law that explains the diversification in nature."

College-Specific iTechnology

*from **iPhone**, page 16*

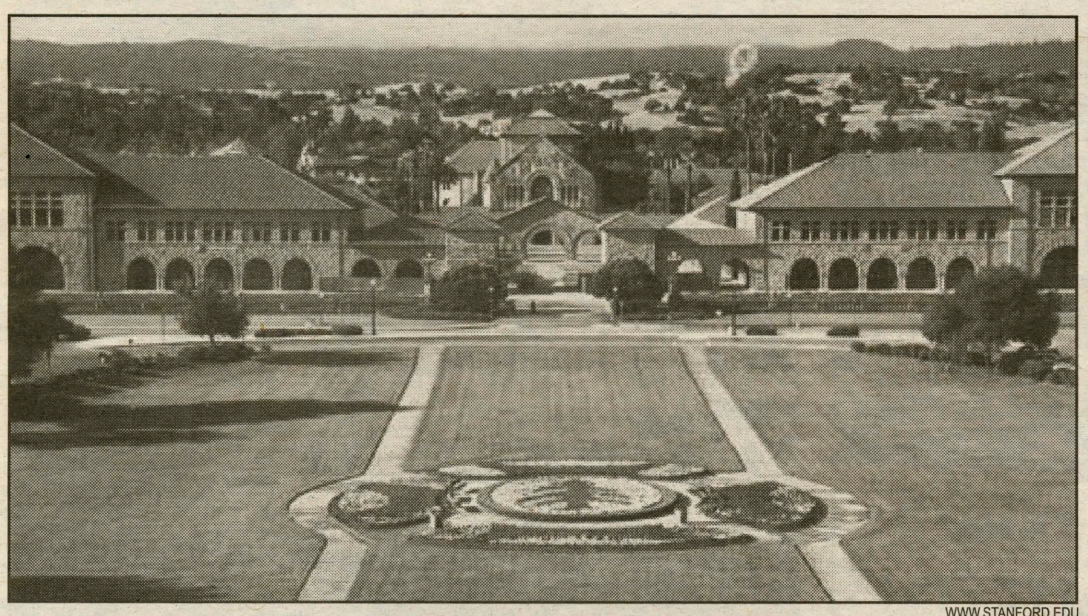
kit was released in 2008. Aaron Wasserman spoke to *The Spectator* from the start-up's San Francisco office. The twenty-year-old Stanford junior admits that though he is a student on paper, he spends most of his time at Terriblyclever's headquarters. He has plans to take MobilEdu on the road and market the product to colleges and universities nationwide, including Hamilton.

"We've built the [iApp] in such a way that it is easy to implement at other colleges and universities and on other phones aside from the iPhone, like the Blackberry," Wasserman explained. "Basically, it can work on any phone with a browser."

Dave Smallen, vice president for information technology, is optimistic about the potential to integrate such mobile information technology on campus in the future. Already, approximately half of Hamilton students have cell phones or comparable mobile devices with Internet capabilities, and 97 percent work off wireless laptops, though the number of students who own an iPhone is still unknown. The college itself does not have the staff resources to create its own iPhone application, so it would have to tap an outside provider to build such a product. Given cost and complexity, students probably will not be downloading iHamilton applications anytime soon, though Smallen pointed out that the iPhone is compatible with the school's secure network.

"We know that mobile computing is in the future, and we want to take advantage of that," he explained. "Our campus-wide wireless network is already in place, so we have the first major piece that many other schools don't have."

In fact, one's alma mater may be the only thing missing on iPhones these days. Price put this thought into perspective: "Everyone has their music, television shows, email, contacts, weather, stocks, and Facebooks on their iPhones. Why not have all your college stuff on there, too?"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Stanford University increased student connectivity through the iPhone and iPod.

A Physics Lesson on the Hudson

*from **A Dramatic**, page 16*

evidence of a soft and graceful landing. The engines on an Airbus A320 are located under the wings and Major noted that, "there must not have been a lor of force on the engines and wings by the time they hit the water," or else both engines would have become detached.

Finally, Major explained how scores of people could stand on the wings of the plane without capsizing or sinking the aircraft. "It's a big plane," he said, "there would need to be a lot of weight - they'd need to displace a lot of water - for that to happen."

Another interesting scientific component of the landing was the bird hits that made it necessary. There are as many as 10,000 "bird hits" or "bird strikes" a year in commercial flight in which a bird hits the windshield of a plane or is sucked into an engine, but double hits like the one that disabled Flight 1549 are relatively rare. Most strikes occur during takeoff or landing, when the routes of planes and migrating birds intersect in altitude. Several organizations, including the International Bird Strike Committee, have proposed making areas around airports less inviting to birds by cutting down trees and shrubs and planning flight routes to avoid typical migration patterns during spring and fall.

We must not forget that when radium was discovered no one knew that it would prove useful in hospitals. The work was one of pure science. And this is a proof that scientific work must not be considered from the point of view of the direct usefulness of it. It must be done for itself, for the beauty of science, and then there is always the chance that a scientific discovery may become like the radium a benefit for humanity.

~Marie Curie

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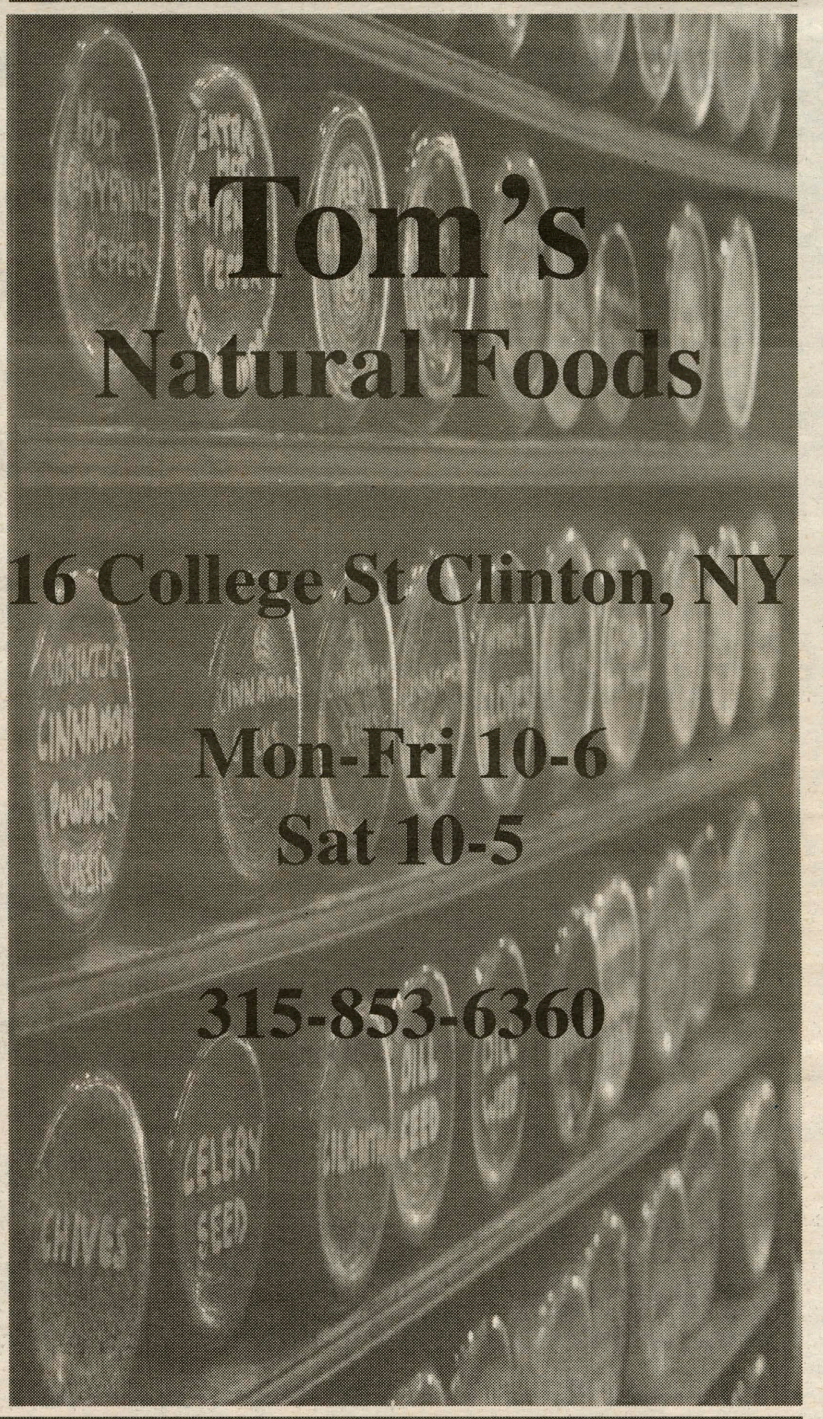


SPORTS

NCAA President Myles Brand Reveals Struggle With Cancer

by Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

On Saturday, January 17th, President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), Myles Brand, announced that he has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer with a slim prospect of recovery. In a recent press statement, Brand indicated that he had just learned the severity of his condition in the last few days.

For many in the collegiate athletic community, Brand stands for academic advocacy and is revered for his unwavering adherence to the retention of talented, rule-abiding athletes, administrators, and coaching staff members.

Hamilton students may remember Brand from a Levitt Series lecture in Oct. 2007, "The Place of Intercollegiate Athletics in American Culture."

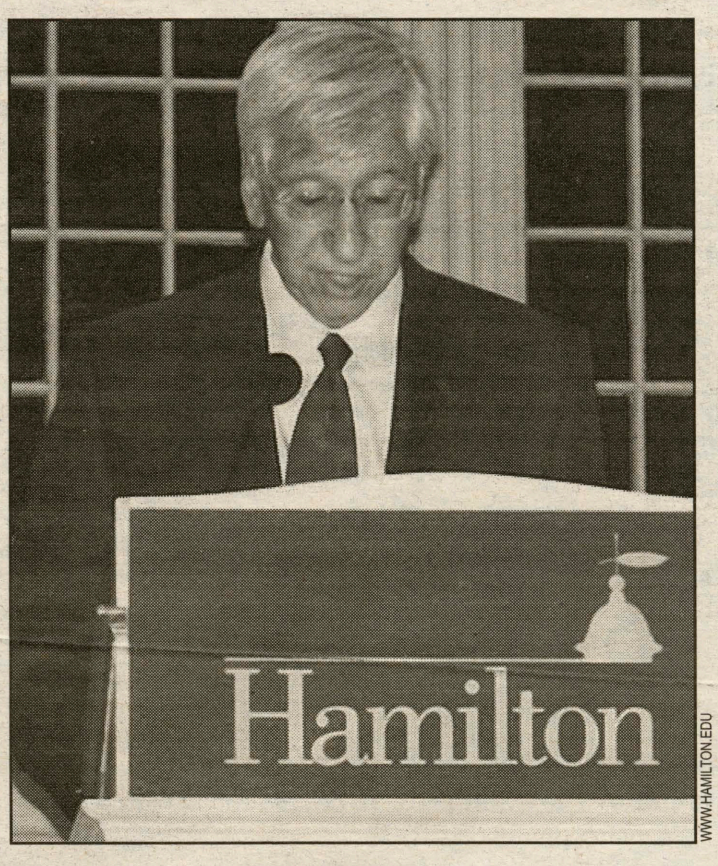
His "zero tolerance" approach to collegiate athletics fueled an incident that cemented his reputation as a firm leader, even before his NCAA presidency. Brand has been extolled by some, hated by others, for the dismissal of notoriously aggressive Indiana University Men's Basketball coach, Bob Knight. Knight had led the Hoosiers to three national championships in fewer than thirty years while he served on the coaching staff, while Brand only served as president of the university for eight years (1994-2002).

Starting his career as an academic and a college dean, Brand entered his NCAA presidential role in 2002 with hopes to underscore the importance of a college education for student athletes. On the current NCAA website, information for prospective athletes is nothing short of brutally honest, detailing that "the overwhelming majority of student-athletes will never earn a dime as a professional athlete. That's why the terms 'student' and 'athlete' are synonymous within the NCAA: When the athlete can no longer play, the student can still succeed."

On these principles, Brand helped develop the APR (Academic Progress Report) system, which examines students' academic performance and categorizes the athletic program as having met NCAA defined academic standards. When teams fail to meet standards, scholarships have been cut up to ten percent, decreasing the recruitment pool for coaches. With the APR scores, NCAA members and collegiate athletic advisors can target strategies for improving students' grade point averages and commitment to completion of a Bachelor's degree.

Under Brand's tenure, team APR scores have improved across the board. According to a 2008 NCAA press release, men's baseball, football, and basketball, and women's bowling are in need of improvement, while men's fencing, water polo, and gymnastics, and women's field hockey and lacrosse, posted the highest scores.

Brand has not announced any plans to step down from the position, and has begun treatment for his condition in hopes of a rapid recovery.



NCAA president Myles Brand speaks at Hamilton College on Oct. 10, 2007 as one of the featured lecturers in the Levitt Series.

Arizona Cardinals and Pittsburgh Steelers meet in Super Bowl XLIII

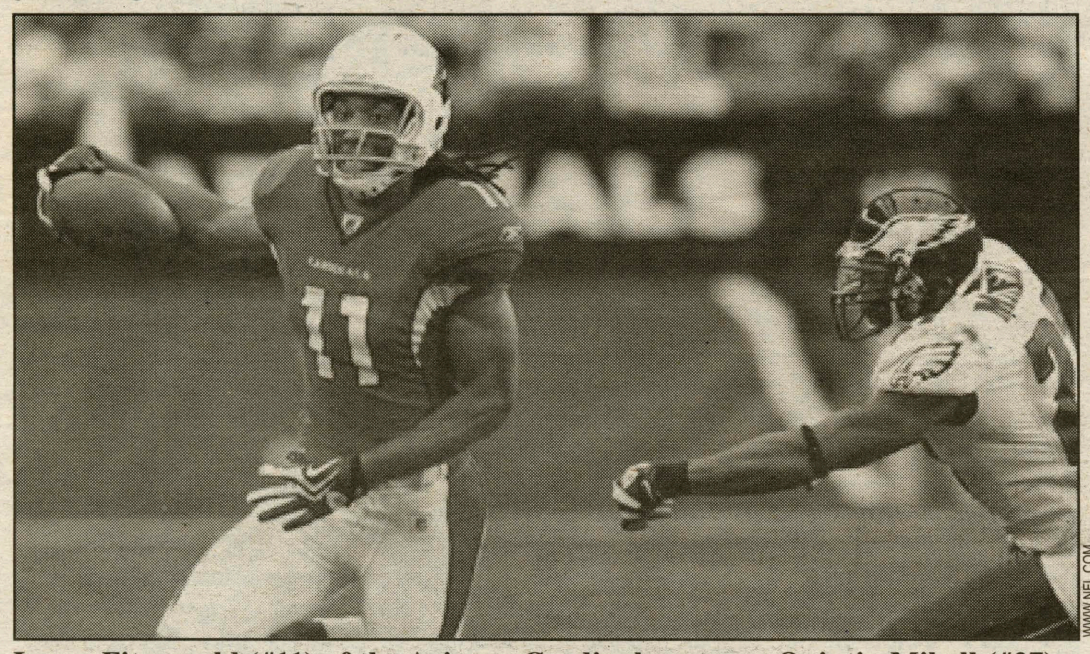
by Daniel Hagemeier '12
Sports Editor

After winning their first playoff game in over 10 years, the Cardinals added two more and now head to Tampa to take on the Pittsburgh Steelers in Super Bowl XLIII.

The Cardinals defeated the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday 32-25. Ken Whisenhunt's team pulled off an early lead after three Larry Fitzgerald TDs in the first half, including a trick play which resulted in a 62-yard touchdown reception in the second quarter. Fitzgerald also set a new NFL postseason record with a combined 419 yards. Donovan McNabb got the Eagles back into the game after he threw two TDs to tight-end Brent Celek in the third quarter and added another one for 62 yards to rookie DeSean Jackson in the fourth quarter. When leading by only one point, the Eagles defense was not able to stop rookie running back Tim Hightower on 3rd and 8 with just under eight minutes to go. After a successful two-point conversion, the Cardinals gained a three-point lead which they kept until the end of the game.

In the AFC championship game, the Pittsburgh Steelers won the defensive battle with the Baltimore Ravens by the final score of 23-14. Joe Flacco, who had been flawless during the playoffs before, had a terrible day with only 141 yards and three interceptions, the last one returned by Troy Polamalu for a 40-yard touchdown. The Steelers profited from three Jeff Reed field goals while Willis McGahee, who had to leave the game with a serious neck injury, scored two TDs for the Ravens, essentially equalizing the interception return and a Santonio Holmes TD in the second quarter.

Ben Roethlisberger will start in his second Super Bowl after winning his seventh playoff game in his career. The Steelers now have the chance to win their sixth Lombardi trophy which would be a new record for the team, while the Cardinals would win the first Super Bowl in franchise history.



Larry Fitzgerald (#11) of the Arizona Cardinals outruns Quintin Mikell (#27) of the Philadelphia Eagles in the NFC Championship Game.

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A Hamilton College Student Publication, Clinton, NY Volume XLIX Number 13

SPECTATOR SPORTS

January 23, 2009

Basketball Rises to Top of the Liberty League

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE MANNS

Hamilton's Jay Simpson '10 drives towards the hoop.

by Daniel Hagemeier '12
Sports Editor

While most Hamilton students enjoyed their winter break, our athletes only enjoyed a couple of days of rest before they started their routine of practice and games again. It is only three weeks into the year 2009, and the men's basketball team has already played six games and won four, including three against other Liberty League teams. This is especially remarkable considering that they started off with two losses.

On Jan. 3, the Continentals lost to the visiting Middlebury Panthers 49-73. Patrick Sullivan '12 and Russ Rosenband '12 led the team with seven points each. Only three days later, Coach Anderson's team lost at Connecticut College 69-50 despite Harlee Wood's '09 20-point, 5-rebound performance. Sullivan also added another 13 points while Lance Wilson '11 recorded four assists and two steals.

However, the men's basketball team turned their fortune around, recording their first win in 2009 against Hobart College. Led by Ephraim McDowell's '12 20-point performance, the Continentals beat the Statesmen in their first Liberty League duel of the season, 71-51 on Jan. 10. McDowell, our athlete of the week, was five of ten in converting three pointers. Wood had another impressive performance with 16 points and junior Jay Simpson '10 recorded ten points and six assists. Two days after the game Wood was named the Liberty League's co-Forward of the Week, while McDowell was named co-Rookie of the Week.

On Jan. 13, Hamilton's men's basketball team visited Williams College and pulled off a 62-58 win after a three-point half time deficit. Wood once again dominated the opponent with 14 points, 13 rebounds, five assists, three steals, and two blocks. McDowell and Sullivan both continued their impressive efforts during their first season for the Continentals with 16-point games each.

In another Liberty League match on Jan. 16, the Continentals recorded their third straight win with a 61-52 victory over visiting Vassar College. Wood had his second straight double-double with 11 points and a career-high 17 rebounds. Lance Wilson had 15 points, and Sullivan made another double digit effort with 14 points.

Only one day later, the men's basketball team had yet another win against another Liberty League team. Once again led by Wood and Sullivan who combined for 38 points and 17 rebounds, Hamilton beat visiting Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a final score of 67-60 to overtake the Liberty League's lead. Wood had his third straight double-double, and Ephraim McDowell recorded impressive 14 points. The Continentals will try to continue to dominate the Liberty League this Friday when they face visiting Union College.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JOE MANNS

Kyle Dumas '09 in play.

NESCAC Honors Two Hamilton Continentals

by Kate Greenough '09
Sports Editor

Swimmer Whitney Rosenbaum '10 and Ice Hockey goalie Meg Shine '10 were both deemed athletes of the week by the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC).

Rosenbaum was named co-athlete of the week after a stellar performance at a dual meet against Middlebury College on Jan. 17. Even though the Continentals lost to the Panthers 212-88, Rosenbaum notched two victories in each the 100- and 200-yard butterfly race.

WWW.HAMILTON.EDU

Whitney Rosenbaum '10 has excelled in the butterfly races this year.

Ranked seventh among goaltenders in the NESCAC league, Shine stepped up Hamilton's defense in a 4-0 victory against the Buffalo Bulls on Jan. 13. She shut out Buffalo's offense with 19 saves. Shine, Laura Stirrat '10 and Lesley Ryder '11 share the goaltending position on the team.

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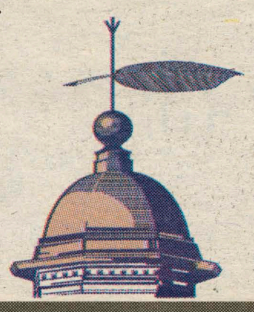
Meg Shine '10 leads the Continentals women's hockey team from the goal.



Hamilton's Athlete of the Week: Ephraim McDowell '12

by Abby Perer '09
Sports Writer

While the majority of the Hamilton community took a month-long break, the men's basketball team was hard at work, winning four of six tough games in the first weeks of 2009. During that span, you may have noticed the name Ephraim McDowell mentioned several times on the Hamilton website under basketball news, and if you haven't heard that name yet, it is one you should get to know. McDowell, who was a standout player at Beaver Country Day School in Boston, MA, is a freshman guard on the basketball team. In Hamilton's last four games he has scored a combined 57 points; in fact, during a Jan. 10 game against the Hobart College Statesmen, he led all scorers with 20 points. Following the game against Hobart, McDowell was named the Liberty League Rookie of the Week and has become a freshman leader on a team that has plenty of upperclassmen talent.

When asked about the key to McDowell's success, head coach Tobin Anderson said that McDowell is a great shooter, a smart player, and has tremendous work ethic. After the Continentals beat the Williams Ephs on Jan. 13, a game in which McDowell scored a team-high of 16 points, Coach Anderson said that the next day Ephraim was still "one of the first guys at practice working to get better."

So what makes this talented freshman tick? I had a chance to speak with McDowell about what drives and inspires him, and he pointed to three very influential people who lead the player by example. First, he said that he enjoys playing for Coach Anderson because he is enthusiastic and dedicated to winning. On another level, the Boston native McDowell looks up to the Boston Celtics star and point guard Ray Allen because of his work ethic, his ability to shoot the ball and his controlled temper on the court. Finally, right on his own team, McDowell looks to Hamilton team captain Harlee Wood to motivate himself to play even better. As McDowell put it, Wood plays extremely hard in practice and in games, never taking a play off. McDowell went on to describe Wood as "the most complete player" he has ever played with, due to Wood's ability to shoot, defend, rebound and handle the ball.

After tallying 1,000 points in his high school basketball career, McDowell said his proudest athletic moment was putting on a Hamilton jersey and playing in his first college game. He has made a name for himself in the Liberty League, and, as he will only continue to improve, we can expect that Ephraim McDowell will have many more proud moments as a Continental and make a lasting name for himself here. Be sure to cheer on McDowell and the rest of the team at their next game on Jan. 23 at home against Union College.

Also, be sure to watch the Super Bowl on Feb. 1 to see if McDowell's prediction is correct. As he said, (spoiler alert!!) the Pittsburgh Steelers are going to win because "their defense is too good, even for [Arizona Cardinal superstar] Larry Fitzgerald."